

**STANDARDS PRESENTATION
TO
CALIFORNIA OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH STANDARDS BOARD**

PROPOSED STATE STANDARD,
TITLE 8, CHAPTER 4

Amend Section 6184 as follows:

§6184. Employee Alarm Systems.

(a) Scope and Application.

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~~(4) The employee alarm shall be distinctive and recognizable as a signal to evacuate the work area or to perform actions designated under the emergency action plan.~~

~~(5) All employees shall be made aware of means and methods of reporting emergencies. These methods may be but not limited to manual pull box alarms, public address systems, radio or telephones. When telephones are used as a means of reporting an emergency, telephone numbers shall be conspicuously posted nearby. Where a communication system also serves as the employee alarm system, all emergency messages shall have priority over all non-emergency messages.~~

~~(6) The employer shall establish procedures for sounding emergency alarms in the workplace. For those employers with 10 or fewer employees in a particular workplace, direct voice communication is an acceptable procedure for sounding the alarm provided all employees can hear the alarm. Such workplaces need not have a back-up system.~~

(b) General Requirements.

(1) Where local fire alarm signaling systems are required by these orders, they shall meet the design requirements of the National Fire Protection Association's "Standard for the Installation, Maintenance, and Use of Local Protective Signaling Systems for Watchman, Fire Alarm and Supervisory Service," NFPA No. 72A1975 and the requirements of this Section.

(2) The employee alarm system shall provide warning for necessary emergency action as called for in the emergency action plan, or for reaction time for safe escape of employees from the workplace or the immediate work area, or both.

(3) The employee alarm shall be capable of being perceived above ambient noise or light levels by all employees in the affected portions of the workplace. Tactile devices may be used to alert those employees who would not otherwise be able to recognize the audible or visual alarm.

(4) The employee alarm shall be distinctive and recognizable as a signal to evacuate the work area or to perform actions designated under the emergency action plan.

(5) All employees shall be made aware of means and methods of reporting emergencies. These methods may be, but are not limited to, manual pull box alarms, public address systems, radio or telephones. When telephones are used as a means of reporting an emergency, telephone numbers shall be conspicuously posted nearby. Where a communication system also serves as the employee alarm system, all emergency messages shall have priority over all non-emergency messages.

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(6) The employer shall establish procedures for sounding emergency alarms in the workplace. For those employers with 10 or fewer employees in a particular workplace, direct voice communication is an acceptable procedure for sounding the alarm provided all employees can hear the alarm. Such workplaces need not have a back-up system.

(c) Installation and Restoration.

(1) The employer shall assure that all devices, components, combinations of devices or systems constructed and installed to comply with this standard shall be approved. Steam whistles, air horns, strobe lights or similar lighting devices, or tactile devices meeting the requirements of this Section are considered to meet this requirement for approval.

(2) The employer shall assure that A~~all~~ employee alarm systems shall be are restored to normal operating condition as promptly as possible after each test or alarm. Devices and components of alarm systems that are subject to wear or destruction shall have replacements available in sufficient quantities and locations for prompt restoration of the system.

(d) Maintenance and Testing.

(1) The employer shall assure that A~~all~~ employee alarm systems shall be are maintained in operating condition except when undergoing repairs or maintenance.

(2) The employer shall assure that A~~a~~ test of the reliability and adequacy of non-supervised employee alarm systems shall be is made every two months. A different actuation device shall be used in each test of a multi-actuation device system so that no individual device is used for two consecutive tests.

(3) The employer shall maintain or replace power supplies as often as is necessary to assure a fully operational condition. Back-up means of alarm, such as employee runners or telephones, shall be provided when systems are out of service.

(4) The employer shall assure that E~~employee~~ alarm circuitry installed after July 1, 1981, shall be supervised and provide positive notification to assigned personnel whenever a deficiency exists in the system. The employer shall assure that A~~all~~ supervised employee alarm systems shall be are tested at least annually for reliability and adequacy.

(5) The employer shall assure that the S~~servicing~~, maintenance and testing of employee alarms shall be are performed by persons trained in the designed operation and functions necessary for reliable and safe operations of the system.

(e) Manual Operation.

(1) The employer shall assure that M~~manually~~ operated actuation devices for use in conjunction with employee alarms shall be are unobstructed, conspicuous and readily accessible.

NOTE: Authority ~~and reference~~ cited: Section 142.3, Labor Code. Reference: Section 142.3, Labor Code.